Completion of task of delimitation Commission in Jammu and Kashmir

360. SHRI KR.SHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delimitation Commission has completed its task in J&K State;

(b) whether it is also a fact that work relating to revision of electoral rolls has been completed;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in these matters and the steps being taken to expedite the same;

(d) the details of the procedure evolved for inclusion of the names of Kashmiri migrants in voters list;

(e) whether any time limit has been fixed in this matter; if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Government propose to hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir after full completion of formalities in regard to ensuring peace in the State; and

(g) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) The J & K Delimitation Commission, constituted in 1981 under Jammu and Kashmir Representation of Peoples Act 1957, passed an Order on 28.9.1992 delimiting State Assembly Constituencies. The Chief Election Commissioner of India pointed out certain deficiencie in the said Order, mainly in relation to the participation of the CEC or his nominee in the delimitation proceedings after the demise of the former Chief Election Commissioner, and certain procedural issues pertaining to the same, and set aside the same. On a review petition of the State Government, the Election Commission has directed the State Government to resume the delimitation proceedings, and has also since nominated a Deputy Election Commissioner to be a member of the Delimitation Commission. The Government of J&K have since reconstituted the State Delimitation Commission to ensure full participation of the nominee of Chief Election Commissioner, and further action in the matter is underway.

(b) and (c) The Summary revision of Electoral Rolls in the State is being conducted by the State Government, as directed by the Election Commission, and the work is in progress. The Election Commission has set March 3, 1995 as the due date for publication of final list of voters in the State.

(d) The procedure for revision of electoral rolls is laid down in the Jammu and Kashmir Representation of Peoples Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder. The Election Commission has also directed the State Chief Electoral Officer to make arrangements for the eligible voters among persons who have migrated from the areas where they were ordinarily resident and are temporarily residing in various areas in the State and others parts of the Country, including appointment of separate Designated Officers in certain areas where sizeable number of migrants from J&K are reported to be residing. Publicity about such arrangements has also been made through Press and through various organisations of the migrants.

(e) According to the time schedule prescribed by the Chief Election Commissioner, for each stage of the process of revision of Electoral Rolls, according to which claims/objections can be filed by 20 December 1994, and the final rolls will be published on 3rd March, 1995.

(f) and (g) The aim of Government is to hold elections in the State of Jammu and Kashmir as early as possible and efforts are being made to create conditions in which this could be brought about.

Killing by Militants in Jammu and Kashmir

361. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item appearing in the Hindutan Times dated the 10th September, 1994 under the caption 'Many blasts, gun battles claimed 56 lives in J and K' regarding the highest toll in militant-related violtce in the Valley during the past few months;

(b) if so, how many out of 56 revenge killings were militants;

(c) the steps taken to maintain peace in J&K; and

(d) how many of those killed were unarmed innocent people and the steps taken by Government to pay compensation to the kith and kin of those innocent people who were killed by the militants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) The Government are aware of the news item in question. According to available information, 31 millitants, 12 civilians and 1 Security force personnel were killed in terrorist related activties on the 8th and 9th of September, 1994.

(c) Sustained and targetted operations against the terrorists are being continued to curb their activities and restore peace in the State.

(d) The State Government is providing ex-gratia relief of Rs. 1 lakh to the next of kin of innocent civilians killed in terrorist violence.

News Report on incidents in Kashmir

362. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Srinagar Urdu Daily, ALSAFA, in its issue of August 16, 1994 has published details of the incidents which happened in Kashmir from January, 1994 to June 30, 1994;

(b) whether these details are factually correct; and

(c) if not, what are the facts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Decrease Militant Activities in Jammu and Kashmir

363. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the militant activities have come down in Jammu and Kashmir recently;

(b) if so, what are the factors in support of the conclusion;

(c) whether Government are taking some steps to resolve the issue in a democratic way; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (d) The militants have tried to keep their activities at high level. However, there has been a qualitative and perceptible change in the situation on the ground level, which is reflected in the successes